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Shahnam J. Sharareh

To: U.S. Patent & Trademark Office From: George H. Scherr, Ph.D.

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Pages: 2 pages including cover sheet

Phone:

Date: February 19, 2002

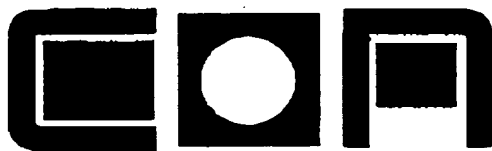
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#3
PA
2/27/02

February 19, 2002

Re: U.S. Patent Application #09/676,670
Art Unit: 1617
Filing Date: 10/02/2000
Inventor: George H. Scherr

Shahnam J. Sharareh
United States Department of Commerce
United States patent and Trademark Office
Commission of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Dr. Sharareh:

This will acknowledge with appreciation your communication of January 29, 2002. In accord with your citations, we elect the restriction to your Number 1:

"Claims 1-19, drawn to methods of making a water-insoluble alginate sponge, classified in class 424, subclass 443."

Thank you for your communication.

Sincerely yours,

George H. Scherr, Ph.D.

GHS/jj